We claim:

1. An image capturing device, comprising:

an audio transducer capable of converting sound into a representative electrical audio signal;

a processor communicating with said audio transducer and selectively causing said audio signal to be outputted by said audio transducer; and

a memory receiving said audio signal, said memory including an audio buffer capable of continuously storing a predetermined amount of said audio signal and including at least one audio storage cell capable of storing at least a portion of said audio signal held in said audio buffer;

wherein said processor causes at least a portion of said audio signal from said audio buffer to be stored into said at least one audio storage cell upon an input command of a user.

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising an audio conditioning circuit that performs audio signal processing on said audio signal.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said audio buffer receives said audio signal when said image capturing device is in an audio capture mode.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said audio buffer receives said audio signal when a lens cover is open and a lens apparatus is exposed.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said audio buffer receives said audio signal when said image capturing device is powered on.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein said processor stores said at least a portion of said audio signal upon a user input.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein said processor stores said at least a portion of said audio signal upon a user input, and wherein said user input is not constrained to occur simultaneously with an image capture.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein said processor stores said at least a portion of said audio signal upon a user input, and wherein said user input specifies a portion of said audio signal to be stored.

9. An audio capture method in an image capturing device, comprising the steps of:

continuously storing a predetermined time amount of an audio signal in an audio buffer in said image capturing device; and

selectively storing at least a portion of said audio signal in a memory storage area upon receipt of a store command input from a user.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the storing step is performed when said image capturing device is in an audio capture mode.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising a preliminary step of converting sound into said audio signal.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said store command input comprises a store command input unassociated with any image capture function.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said store command input is automatically issued in conjunction with an image capture function.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein said store command input is not constrained to occur simultaneously with an image capture.

15. An audio capture method in an image capturing device, comprising the steps of:

continuously storing a predetermined time amount of an audio signal in an audio buffer in said image capturing device when said image capturing device is in an audio capture mode; and

storing at least a portion of said audio signal upon a store command input from a user.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising a preliminary step of converting sound into said audio signal.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said store command input comprises a store command input unassociated with any image capture function.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein said store command input is issued automatically in conjunction with an image capture function.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein said store command input is not constrained to occur simultaneously with an image capture.